

The barrel 30 is thicker in the region (32) thereof that overlaps the engagement position of the gate and hook on the outside of the karabiner. This additional thickness provides greater strength against inwards forces that might otherwise cause the barrel to fracture or break to the extent that it no longer prevents the gate from opening inwardly, which could allow a rope or the like to escape from the karabiner. It is to be noted that, in spite of the thickness of the barrel as described in one region as shown in Figure 1 of the drawings, the reduction in gate open dimension is minimal compared to a conventional karabiner.

On its opposite side the barrel 30 has longitudinal grooves 34 formed thereon for grip. The shaping of the barrel 30 has the advantage of being easier to grip and operate compared to a conventional circular section barrel.

It will be appreciated that the locking barrels of the type illustrated may be used with other types of karabiner gate, such as wire gates.